

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

ON CONGRESS' CONSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITY TO ADDRESS THE ONGOING CRISIS IN IRAQ INVOLVING THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND SYRIA (ISIS)

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I support my colleague FREDERICA WILSON in the effort she has undertaken to #bringbackourgirls, addressing the horrors of Boko Haram having extracted these girls from their lives. We also, in addition to that responsibility, have an exacting responsibility with reference to ongoing circumstances that the President addressed last Wednesday evening. On August 14, nearly a month ago, I wrote to the President asking him to be mindful of a letter that I sent to Speaker BOEHNER. I include both my letter to President Obama and to Speaker BOEHNER for the RECORD. I said the following in my letter to Speaker BOEHNER:

I respectfully call upon you to bring Congress back into session so that we may meet our constitutional responsibility to address the ongoing crisis in Iraq. As you know, the situation there is becoming increasingly more complex and continues to defy easy resolution.

There is no doubt that the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) will continue to terrorize the people of Iraq, leading to an increase in the tens of thousands of Iraqi Christians, Yazidi and other refugees who have been driven from their homes. However, we in Congress have a responsibility to make sure that America is not dragged into another ongoing military endeavor in Iraq. Although the current airstrikes may have stopped ISIS momentarily, we still have a responsibility under Article I powers to delineate and impose a timeframe for these efforts as we move forward.

The situation in Iraq on a political, humanitarian and military level is increasingly dire, and we may very well have a duty to meet these difficulties with force along with any number of other strategic responses, but we certainly have a duty to meet as a body at the earliest possible date to discuss these issues and act accordingly under the United States Constitution and the War Power Resolution.

I thank you for your time and consideration of my request and ask for a prompt response.

My letter to the President stated the following:

AUGUST 14, 2014.

Hon. BARACK H. OBAMA,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: I write to inform you that I sent the attached letter to Speaker Boehner today, calling on him to bring the U.S. House of Representatives back into session so that we may address the crisis in Iraq.

The situation in Iraq on a political, humanitarian and military level is increasingly dire, and we may very well have a duty to

meet these difficulties with force along with any number of other strategic responses, but we certainly have a duty to meet as a body at the earliest possible date to discuss these issues and act accordingly under the United States Constitution and the War Power Resolution.

I certainly appreciate your timely attention to the complex and difficult situation unfolding in Iraq, and want you to know that I am eager to facilitate a resolution to the current crisis by making sure the Legislative and Executive branches of our government work in unison to achieve an acceptable outcome for the American and Iraqi people.

I thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

ALCEE L. HASTINGS,
Member of Congress.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. COFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$17,742,108,970,073.37. We've added \$7,115,231,921,160.29 to our debt in 5 years. This is over \$7.1 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

HONORING HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

HON. K. MICHAEL CONAWAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, America is a nation composed of individuals whose ancestors were once part of other nations. As they work for a better, brighter tomorrow for themselves and more importantly for their children, these individuals become Americans. I would like to take just a moment of this body's time to thank and congratulate a group of my constituents who are making sure that the story of how their ancestors helped build America is shared.

Today, I rise to recognize Hispanic Heritage of Odessa, which will begin a month-long celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month with a breakfast this morning at McKinney Park. Hispanic Heritage Month first began in 1968, and each year, the celebration and tradition has grown as has our community.

This morning Hispanic Heritage of Odessa will continue their efforts to build a stronger community—one based upon hard work, integrity, and the importance of family—by recognizing the good work done by our fellow citi-

zens. The breakfast will honor many influential members of the Hispanic community in Odessa who serve as an example to the younger generation to do good and re-invest in those around you.

It is important that these stories are shared, not only with the wider community in which they live, but also with young people, who will benefit by learning how to form the backbone of their community—one that places their families and neighbors above themselves. Each one of those stories is unique, but through each one of them, children will hear how hard their parents and grandparents worked to fashion a better life for future generations.

On behalf of the 11th District, it is an honor to recognize and represent Hispanic Heritage of Odessa and the thriving, vibrant Latino community it serves. As this event and celebration continues to grow, it is my hope that the values they celebrate today are transmitted to and embraced by the next generation of Hispanic leaders in Ector County.

TRIBUTE TO TOM MCLEMORE

HON. HAROLD ROGERS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Tom McLemore, the clerk of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, who will be leaving the Committee staff after more than 13 years of service.

Tom joined the Appropriations Committee staff in 2001 and has worked on various subcommittees and for various chairmen since that time, ultimately becoming the clerk of the Defense Subcommittee in 2011.

As the Chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I have had the honor and pleasure of working closely with Tom. He is professional, he is reliable, he is dedicated, and he gets every job done well, regardless of the circumstances.

Tom is a leader. He efficiently manages his staff, not by micromanaging but by empowering them to make informed recommendations. He is affable, he is thoughtful, and he is calm under pressure.

As we all know, congressional staff work countless hours and through countless holiday seasons in order to keep this esteemed institution running. This inevitably takes a toll on personal commitments, and nothing means more to Tom than his supportive and loving family. In his new employment, Tom will hopefully have more time to spend with his lovely wife, Cory, and their two girls, Anna and Maggie.

I have said before, and I will say again, the Appropriations Committee has the best staff on Capitol Hill. And Tom McLemore is the epitome of that statement. Congress, and I, will surely miss this leader; but we thank him for his service and dedication and wish him well now and in the future.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING LT. MATTHEW
STAPLETON

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Lt. Matthew Stapleton on the occasion of his retirement from the City of Petaluma Police Department.

Lt. Stapleton joined the Petaluma Police Department on April 4, 1988. Over the last 26 years, he has dedicated himself to ensuring the safety of our community. Through various specialized assignments, including SWAT, Investigations, Narcotics and Patrol, Lt. Stapleton has consistently demonstrated bravery in the line of duty. As an instructor, he has provided proper training to numerous law enforcement officers throughout Sonoma County. It is no surprise that Lt. Stapleton's outstanding supervisory and managerial skills have earned him many decorations throughout his career, such as Petaluma Police Officer of the Year, Petaluma City Employee of the Year, and the Medal of Bravery.

Lt. Stapleton's legacy is one of sincere passion for the most challenging police work and dedication to the community. Please join me in expressing deep appreciation to Lt. Matthew Stapleton for his long and singularly exceptional career, and for his outstanding record of service to the people of the City of Petaluma and Sonoma County.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
JOB CORPS PROGRAM

HON. GARY C. PETERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. PETERS of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Job Corps program, which was founded in 1965 as a key part of President Lyndon Johnson's War on Poverty. Founded with the mission of empowering youth, ages 16 through 24, from disadvantaged backgrounds to improve their own quality of life, the Detroit Job Corps Center has been a vital part of the Southeast Michigan region by providing vocational and academic training.

Created under the administration of the U.S. Department of Labor under the Economic Opportunity Act, the dedicated staff of the Job Corps program have been working for half of a century to address the many different barriers that youth encounter in their efforts to obtain employment and attain independence. By providing youth with a combination of academic, vocational, and work-based learning experiences, alongside assistance with resume writing and interview preparation, the Job Corps program helps its students develop the tools they need to find stable, long-term, and well-paying jobs. Today, 125 Job Corps centers across the United States serve more than 60,000 youth annually, ensuring that employment is a goal that can be obtained regardless of one's personal circumstances.

To carry out the mission of the Job Corps program locally, the Detroit Job Corps Center

has engaged with an extensive network of community stakeholders in Southeast Michigan; which allows it to offer its students a wide array of experiences as they seek to build their skills and determine their future career path. Among its partners are Quicken Loans, the United Auto Workers, the NAACP, many local elected officials, Southwest Solutions and the Wayne County Department of Homeland Security. With these connections, the Detroit Job Corps Center has been able to offer its students internships and community service activities with organizations that are making a difference in the Southeast Michigan region, organizations like: The Greening of Detroit, the United Way of Southeast Michigan, Forgotten Harvest and the U.S. Veterans Administration.

The record of Detroit Job Corps Center is embodied in the success of its graduates, 95 percent of whom end up obtaining a college degree, pursuing advanced training, finding fulltime employment or serving our nation in the Armed Forces. Of the 125 Job Corps centers across the nation, the Detroit center ranks second in graduate ranking and sixth in overall program ranking for the 2013–2014 period. In recognition of its success, the Detroit Job Corps Center has received a National Job Corps Gold Star Award for outstanding achievement each year since 2010.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable impact the Job Corps program has made over the last 50 years and it is my pleasure to specifically recognize the Detroit Job Corps Center for the work it has done to empower youth in the Southeast Michigan community to build a better future for themselves. As our economy becomes increasingly knowledge-based, the value and power of an education takes on an ever-growing importance. The work of the Job Corps program and the Detroit Job Corps Center is vital to ensuring that a quality education is available to all youth in our communities, regardless of their background or circumstances. I congratulate the Detroit Job Corps Center on its many achievements and wish its staff continued success in fulfilling the mission of the Job Corps program and realizing President Lyndon Johnson's dream of an America free of poverty.

HONORING JERRY YOUNG

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend Jerry Young, who has been selected as President of the National Baptist Convention.

Rev. Jerry Young was born in Scott, Mississippi to Reverend E.L. and Elizabeth Young. He was raised in the Mississippi Delta in the heart of the Civil Rights Era, enduring the pains and struggles of several disappointments, and beating the odds of his predetermined failures. Throughout his life, it became increasingly clear why God called Pastor Young to the ministry at the young age of seventeen. Young's service began at Mt. Tennia Baptist Church in Lamont, Mississippi and led to him serving as pastor of St. John and Pilgrim Rest Baptist Churches, both in Greenville, Mississippi.

Young has faithfully led the congregation of New Hope Baptist Church since 1980. He is the founder and headmaster of New Hope Christian Pre-School and New Hope Christian Elementary School, serving over 300 students.

Pastor Young attended Nugent Center High School in Bolivar County, Mississippi and went on to attain an Associate of Arts in Social Science from Coahoma Junior College in Clarksdale, Mississippi. He received a Bachelor of Science in Sociology and Social Welfare from Rust College in Holly Springs, Mississippi, where he met and married the love of his life, Mrs. Helen Akins Young. With her support and encouragement, Pastor Young has earned a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry from Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi.

Instilling the values of faith, education, and love, they are the proud parents of two daughters, Dr. Jerlen Nelson and Kelli Elizabeth Hart. Adding to their life's joy are their two adorable granddaughters, one grandson, and one step-grandson.

Dr. Young makes history as the first Mississippi pastor chosen to lead the National Baptist Convention. He was elected amongst five candidates nominated for the seat.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Jerry Young.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEVE KING

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 494, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "no".

Mr. Speaker, on rollcall Nos. 495 and 496, I was not present to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on both.

IN APPRECIATION OF COLONEL
PATRICK T. "SMACK" MCKENZIE

HON. HOWARD P. "BUCK" MCKEON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2014

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and pay tribute to Colonel Patrick T. "Smack" McKenzie, on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Air Force after 26 years of service.

I have had the pleasure of working with Smack on a number of occasions during his tenure in the Air Force House Liaison Office. I greatly appreciate and admire his professionalism, knowledge, and dedication, which has benefited me, and numerous other Members and staff.

Colonel McKenzie has given a great deal to this Nation through his distinguished and selfless service. He began his Air Force career as an ROTC Cadet and a "Jayhawk" at the University of Kansas—an allegiance he maintains to this day, as evidenced by the Jayhawk lanyard you will always see around his neck. Upon graduating in May 1988, he was competitively selected for pilot training at Reese AFB, Texas. He was the envy of Class 90–06, not only because of his perfectly restored red